HAREL Isser

Israel

POL 15-1 ISR

ORIGIN/ACTION NEA-10

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OSD 3	USIA 10	NSA 3
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-17 — UNCLASSIFIED

NO. — HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : Jerusalem, London, Paris

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FROM : Amembassy TEL AVIV — DATE: July 7, 1966

SUBJECT : Isser HAREL Quits as Security Adviser to ESHKOL

REF : Tel Aviv's A-322, October 13, 1965; A-295, October 1; A-274, September 24, and A-257, September 17, 1965

It will be recalled from the communications under reference that on September 13, 1965, in the midst of the turbulent election campaign, Prime Minister Levi ESHKOL named Isser HAREL (Halperin), former Chief of the Israel Security Services, to the position of Special Adviser to the Prime Minister. While never officially stated as such, it was clear that, in addition to internal political motives such as "righting the wrong" done Harel by former Prime Minister David BEN-GURION, Eshkol hoped that Harel would prove a useful adviser in the sensitive security and intelligence spheres. At the same time, it was widely-bruited that such a nomination was bound to be resented by the man who succeeded Harel as Chief of the Security Services.

Subsequent events have proven the Cassandras to have been correct. Thus, after the initial honeymoon in which Harel's work in reviewing the Military Government system as well as plans for population dispersal was given wide publicity, rumors as to his basic dissatisfaction began to crop up with increasing frequency. Within the past two months there have been repeated journalistic reports of his resignation. Official confirmation that there had in fact been a break-up between Eshkol and Harel was furnished in the following brief Government communique issued June 29, and given wide prominence in the June 30 local press: "The Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Mr. Levi Eshkol, yesterday accepted the resignation of Mr. Isser Harel, his General Adviser. The resignation took effect yesterday."

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Drafted by: POL:JDLeonard/osv 7/1/66 — Approved by: POL:GBLambrakis

Clearances:

It did not take long for Harel to explain the reasons behind his action. Speaking on June 29 before the Mapai Academic circle he stated according to Haaretz that "there was no common understanding between the Prime Minister and me, and I found it was my duty to resign after a serious quarrel I had with him. I could not perform the duties I was called upon to fulfill as a result of his methods of work. This did not concern all the duties I had to carry out, but one special duty for which purpose I had been called." Davar is somewhat more explicit in that it quotes Harel as saying that he was "not given the opportunity to fulfill (his) duties as Adviser to the Prime Minister on matters of Intelligence and Security." The Jerusalem Post cites one report according to which it proved impossible for Harel "to agree on the distribution of duties with the operational chiefs in this (security) field."

In a related development the June 30 and July 1 local press report that Harel's action has led to the resignation of a man identified only as a "Senior Government Official" in a "sensitive State agency". Several papers opine that this man was employed in an advisory capacity.

BARBOUR (6/3c)